

Dilip Banerjee - 5/27/2011

GMD Shipyard Corporation – Complaint Investigation:

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Based on a complaint, ECO Jennifer Okonuk visited this site on May 24, 2011 and issued a ticket to address observed chemical spill on the ground, improper storage of spent sand blasting materials, lack of manifest for transport/disposal of waste materials and so on. She requested that other program staff visit this site for further evaluation. As a result water and air program staff visited the site on May 26, 2011.

This site is located inside the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The company is involved in the ship repair business and employs 135 people at this location to perform various activities of ship repairing including sand blasting, painting, replacing rusted metal plates and so on. There are six docking facilities at this site. Currently 5 docking facilities are operational. Docking facility # 1, 2, 5 and 6 are used as dry docks. Dock # 3 is reserved for wet dock operation. The dock # 4 is not operational. Depending on the type of repair need, the company employs either dry dock or wet dock operation. The dry dock operation requires emptying the dock once a ship is placed in the desired position within the dock. The dock emptying process involves pumping of seawater from inside the dock to the East River.

The facility is currently covered under a SPDES general permit which requires use of BMP to manage various discharges from the site. Another way of regulating SPDES discharges from this site would be to use a SPDES industrial permit instead of the existing SPDES general permit. The Department has the option to use this alternative method of regulating the discharge from this site. TCLP Test submitted by the company in the past (March 7, 2006) showed that the materials used for sand blasting is not hazardous.

It should be noted in the context of the BMP requirements of the existing SPDES permit; no water violation was recorded during the site visit on May 26, 2010. No water samples were taken from the discharge during this site visit. If future sampling of discharge shows substances of concern, enforcement/compliance action may be initiated.